

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11742 021159Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /035 W
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R 021111Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3148
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11742

PASS USDA, FAS GRAIN AND FOOD DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IN, PK
SUBJECT: ARTICLE ON INDIA WHEAT TO PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 11155 (NOTAL)

1. AUGUST 2 EDITION OF INDIAN EXPRESS CARRIED ARTICLE BY SAEED NAQVI, ENTITLED " INDIA WILLING TO GIVE WHEAT TO PINDI." ACCORDING TO NAQVI, PAKISTAN HAD ASKED IN MARCH WHETHER GOI WOULD SELL SOME WHEAT. INDIAN RESPONSE REPORTEDLY WAS THAT QUOTE THERE WERE SOME CONSTRAINTS ON SALE OF FOODGRAINS BUT THAT INDIA WOULD BE WILLING TO LOAN PAKISTAN THE WHEAT IT REQUIRED.

UNQUOTE.

2. NAQVI WROTE THAT THIRD PARTIES HAD RECENTLY BEEN MAKING INQUIRIES ABOUT POSSIBLE INDIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO PAKS. FIRST SUCH INQUIRY WAS BY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE NEWSOM WHEN HE WAS IN NEW DELHI LAST MONTH. QUOTE MR. NEWSOM IS REPORTED TO HAVE BRIEFLY ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER IF INDIA WOULD BE AMENABLE TO
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SUGGESTIONS OF HELPING PAKISTAN OUT OF ITS PRESENT FOOD SHORTAGE. MR. DESAI IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RESPONDED THAT INDIA WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A REQUEST FROM PAKISTAN WITH SYMPATHY UNQUOTE. ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER MR. NEWSOM WAS ACTING AT PAKISTAN'S REQUEST OR ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

3. ANOTHER THIRD PARTY INQUIRY WAS REPORTEDLY MADE BY THE WORLD BANK, WHICH NAQVI NOTES HAS DENIED EITHER BEING APPROACHED BY PAKISTAN OR HAVING SOUNDED OUT INDIA ON THIS MATTER. QUOTE BUT INFORMED SOURCES MAINTAIN THAT PAKISTAN ACTUALLY ASKED THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IN ROME WHICH IN TURN REFERRED THE MATTER TO THE WORLD BANK UNQUOTE. NAQVI CLAIMS THAT INDIA HAS MADE IT CLEAR IT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP OUT ITS NEIGHBOR AND THAT INDIA IS NOW IN POSITION TO EITHER SELL OR LOAN WHEAT TO PAKISTAN. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS A CONCRETE PROPOSAL EITHER DIRECTLY FROM THE PAKS OR THROUGH SOME QUOTE FRIENDLY COUNTRY UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: NAQVI'S ARTICLE IS MORE BALANCED THAN PREVIOUS INDIAN REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT AND PORTRAYS INDIA'S INTENTIONS AS SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING. GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IN, PK
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